Audition & Season Information

About the Jazz Arts Orchestra (JAO)

In January 2008 CKYO adopted the former Jazz Arts Foundation Youth Ensemble, adding big-band jazz to our highly successful classical orchestras. University of Kentucky Professor Raleigh Dailey leads the CKYO Jazz Arts Orchestra (JAO). The band rehearses one night a week and is comprised of the standard big band instrumentation: alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones, trombones, trumpets, and a full rhythm section featuring drums, bass, guitar, and piano. The Jazz Arts Orchestra will accept up to the following for each instrument: 2 Alto, 2 tenor, 1 bari, 4-5 trumpets, 4-5 trombones (including bass), piano, guitar, bass, drumset).

Rehearsals: *Tuesdays from 7:15 – 9:00pm, beginning January 5, 2027 – May 4, 2027*
Location: *Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church (180 E Maxwell St., Lexington)*

Tuition: *$270 for the semester + fundraising or $100 cash opt out (Due January 31, 2027)*
Monthly payment plans available; Financial assistance available via application

Performances:

- Sunday, February 21, 2027: CKYO Teen Arts Festival @ Singletary Center
- Tuesday May 11, 2027: CKYO Jazz Live! Final Concert @ TBD

About the Jazz Repertory Orchestra (JRO)

The Jazz Repertory Orchestra (JRO) is an ensemble open to middle and high school students who are interested in participating in a select Jazz Ensemble but have less experience than students qualifying for the JAO. University of Kentucky Professor Raleigh Dailey leads the CKYO Jazz Repertory Orchestra. The Jazz Repertory Orchestra will accept a larger number of instruments and focuses on exploring improvisation and building jazz skills for the participants.

Rehearsals: *Tuesdays from 5:30 – 7:00pm, beginning January 5, 2027 – May 4, 2027*
Location: *Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church (180 E Maxwell St., Lexington)*

Tuition: *$255 for the semester + fundraising or $100 cash opt out (Due January 31, 2027)*
Monthly payment plans available; Financial assistance available via application

Performances:

- Sunday, February 21, 2027: CKYO Teen Arts Festival @ Singletary Center
- Tuesday May 11, 2027: CKYO Jazz Live! Final Concert @ TBD

CKYO Jazz Ensembles 2027
Audition Rules and Requirements

1. **WHO MUST COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FOR A JAZZ ENSEMBLE AUDITION and submit a video audition:**
    a. All students who are interested in participating in the Jazz Arts Orchestra (even if you were a member of JAO last season) must audition each season;
    b. All students who are interested in participating in Jazz Repertory Orchestra (JRO) who did not participate last season.
    c. If you were a member of **Jazz Repertory Orchestra** (JRO) in spring 2026 and **want to continue to participate in Jazz Repertory Orchestra** (JRO) in spring 2027 (i.e. do not wish to audition or be considered for Jazz Arts Orchestra (JAO) spring 2027), you do NOT need to audition. Instead, please complete this **JRO Returning Interest Form** (instead of submitting an audition application) by Tuesday, December 1, 2026.

2. **WHAT to PREPARE for the AUDITION:**
    a. **ALL instruments:** 1 solo (jazz style preferred), you can also play parts of more than one solo, should be approx 3-5 minutes of music; You are welcome to play over a backing track, but make sure it can be heard in the video.
    b. **All instruments EXCEPT Drumset**: 12 keys of major scales and a chromatic scale through your range. If you're auditioning solely on mallets – please play the scales;
    c. **DRUMSET only**: play 16 measures of time in each of the following styles: 1) 4/4 medium swing (quarter note=144), 2) 4/4 fast swing (quarter note=220 or above), 3) bossa nova (any tempo), 4) samba (any tempo), 5) any rock or funk feel.
    d. **ALL instruments:** Improvisation to a backing track provided by CKYO in Bb (click HERE for the track, play along for three or four choruses – no need to play the whole thing.)

3. **SUBMIT your AUDITION:**
    a. Prepare your audition, record your video, post to YouTube and submit the video link to us via the CKYO Jazz Ensemble Audition Application by Tuesday, December 1, 2026 .
    b. Video recording/posting instructions are available here:
        https://www.ckyo.org/video-instructions
    c. When your video is complete, Submit your video here:
        https://pci.jotform.com/form/262865895854176
    d. There is a $20 audition fee per student, per instrument (if a student is auditioning on more than one instrument). **If you need assistance with the audition fee, please be in touch with us at ckyo@ckyo.org.**
4. Results of the auditions will be **emailed** to all who auditioned no later than Monday, December 21, 2026. Registration will be due Friday, January 1 and rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, January 5th, 2027.

Please NOTE: CKYOs SCHOOL and PRIVATE LESSON PARTICIPATION: It is CKYO's policy that all members are participating in their school band or orchestra program (if available at their enrolled school) and are enrolled in regular private lessons on their instrument while participating in CKYO. Students are not required to fulfill these requirements in advance of being accepted into an ensemble, but must fulfill the requirements while participating in and rehearsing with a CKYO ensemble. CKYO remains committed to and supportive of school music programs and the artists in our community who teach privately and feel they continue to be one of our greatest assets to each students' musical success. **PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS REQUIREMENT BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR AUDITION. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Students who are not in compliance will not be able to participate in CKYO's program.**

SCAN THE QR CODE for recording instructions and to submit your AUDITION VIDEO!